



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT DIVISION

October 7, 2011

Dear HERO Participant,

Congratulations on your decision to participate in the HERO Program. Your participation in the HERO Program will benefit you in both saved utility bills and greater comfort, long after any rebate that you receive for making your home more energy efficient is gone.

Rules, guidelines, and procedures for the HERO Program are subject to change without notice. The guarantee that your home will be processed under the program only occurs once the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources receives a preliminary rating for your home, as submitted by a home energy rater that is listed on our website at the time of your preliminary rating. Your rebate will be based upon the guidelines that are in place at the time that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources receives your preliminary rating.

In order for **Existing Homes** to participate in the HERO Program, a preliminary rating of the existing home, as it is before improvements, **MUST** be conducted by the Home Energy Rater of your choice prior to any energy efficient improvements being made to the existing home. This preliminary rating of the existing home, as it is before improvements, **MUST** then be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources by the Home Energy Rater. Existing Homes that do not meet this requirement are disqualified from participation in the HERO Program. An existing home qualifies for the HERO Program by improving its efficiency by 30% over the home as it was before the improvements were made and by meeting the following requirements. If new HVAC equipment is installed as part of the improvements, in order for an existing home to qualify for the program the installed equipment efficiencies must meet the minimum performance standard called out below.

- A. If any new HVAC equipment is installed, the HVAC equipment **MUST** be a minimum SEER 14 (*this is a mandatory requirement - if the equipment efficiency is less than SEER14 - the home does not qualify for HERO*)
- B. Whether or not the improvements to the home include a new HVAC system, the improvements made to the home must also obtain at least 2 Upgrade Points from the possible items listed below. Obtaining 2 Upgrade Points will qualify the home for the minimum rebate. Obtaining any 6 Upgrade Points from the possible items listed below will qualify the home owner for the maximum \$2,000 rebate

October 7, 2011

Voluntary Items *(a detailed list will be provided to you by your energy rater)*

1. New Duct System (6 Upgrade Points)
2. Seal and Insulate Chase (3 Upgrade Points)
3. Insulate Knee Walls (6 Upgrade Points)
4. Seal and Insulate Fire Place Opening in attic (3 Upgrade Points)
5. Air Tight Recessed Lighting Fixtures (3 Upgrade Points)
6. Seal and Insulate Attic Access Door (3 Upgrade Points)
7. Increase Attic Insulation (2 Upgrade Points for each additional R5)
8. Increase Wall Insulation (2 Upgrade Points for each additional R5)
9. Increase Heating System Efficiency (4 Upgrade Points)
10. Increase Water Heater Efficiency (3 Upgrade Points)
11. Window Upgrade (2 Upgrade Points for every 3 additional windows)
12. Upgrade Package - Programmable Thermostat, R8 Water Heater Jacket, and Occupancy Sensors (2 Upgrade Points)

Note: Refer to detailed list in Original HERO Program Applicant Guidelines in order to meet specific criteria for individual Voluntary Items

- C. The homeowner must provide valid receipts to the energy rater at the time of the final rating for all of the energy improvements applied toward the HERO Program rebate
- D. If new HVAC equipment is added as part of the energy efficiency improvements applied toward the HERO Program rebate, the receipts for the HVAC equipment must clearly display the Make, Model, and Serial Number of the installed equipment

The funds allocated for your home under the HERO Program are guaranteed for 6 months from the date the preliminary rating was conducted (*Refer to Original HERO Program Applicant Guidelines*). If your home meets the mandatory 30% improvement requirement your rebate will be determined by either multiplying your home energy rating's energy efficiency premium by 20%, or by multiplying the cost of the energy efficiency improvements you make to the home by 20%...whichever is the lesser of the two. Your rebate will be the result of this calculation, up to a maximum of \$2,000. Your cash rebate amount currently will be taxable, though we have applied to the IRS for a declaration that this award be nontaxable. Should the IRS reverse their decision on taxing this cash rebate, you will not receive a 1099 for this rebate amount in the upcoming tax season. Please save this notification with your tax information for the upcoming tax season. If you have any questions, please call us at (225) 342-1399 or (800) 836-9589. Please visit our web site, for an explanation of the HERO Program, and step by step instructions on how to participate in the program, at:

<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/techasmt/programs/residential/hero/instructions.htm>

October 7, 2011

Once your home energy rating has been submitted to the Department of Natural Resources by your rater, you can monitor the status of your application through the HERO system by going to:

http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/www_root/sonris_portal_1.htm

clicking on the lighthouse at the top of the screen, and then clicking on "Homeowner/Builder Inquiry" and entering your social security number and last name. It is the homeowners responsibility to visit the aforementioned site within three weeks of the date of the preliminary rating to verify that DNR has received your preliminary rating. If your preliminary rating has not been posted after this three week period inform the energy rater that your rating has not yet been submitted. Please take advantage of this feature to keep yourself abreast of the status of your application as it moves through the system. By participating in this program you consent to a possible follow up rating audit within a three year period from the time of the rebate check date. You will be notified in advance, to schedule a time at your convenience, should your home be randomly selected for such an audit.

Thanks,

Buddy Justice
Energy Rated Homes of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

HBJ/dkb

Enclosure

(Homeowner Signature) *(Date)*

(Rated Property Address) *(City,)* **LA** *(Zip)*